

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully reviewing this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-6 were pending in this application. Claims 1-6 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Further, claims 7-17 were added. Claims 7 and 16 are independent. The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 7 and 16.

Objection to Drawings

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. With the above cancellation of previous claims and addition of new claims, this objection has been rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,943,909 ("Soh"). As discussed above, claims 1-6 were canceled, thereby rendering the rejections moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

As discussed previously, new claims 7-17 were added by way of this reply. Claims 7 and 16 are independent. The remaining new claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 7 and 16.

New claims 7-17 are patentable over Soh for at least the following reasons. Specifically, new independent claim 7 recites *inter alia*, "cylindrical head comprises one of a projection and a slot, and the interfacing support comprises *on its outer surface* the other of the projection and the slot, and wherein the projection and the slot are configured to cooperate with one another *both* for angularly immobilizing the cylindrical head relative to the support and for forming a water evacuation outlet orifice." Applicant respectfully asserts that Soh fails to show or suggest at least the aforementioned limitation as required by independent claim 7.

The disclosure of Soh is directed towards a starter having a water drainage hole (*see, e.g.*, col. 1, paragraph 2). Soh discloses a starter (1) comprising a plurality of magnetic poles (12) fixed to a yoke (9) and an armature (13) rotatably mounted inside an inner periphery of the magnetic poles (12). The yoke (9) is fitted in a center case (8) by a spigot-joint, and the center case (8) comprises a reduction gear (21, 22, 23) and a one-way clutch (*see* Figs. 1 and 4, col. 3, lines 21-34, col. 3, line 59, and col. 4, line 4).

The center case (8) is interposed between the yoke (9) and a front case (7), and a holding plate (51) is assembled with the center case (8). The center case (8) and the holding plate (51) are angularly positioned relative to one another by fitting a projection (8c) of the center case (8) in a

cut-out portion (51e) of the holding plate (51). The cut-out portion (51e) is formed on a circular portion (51b) of the holding plate (51) (*see* col. 5, lines 26-42, and col. 6, lines 39-45).

The circular portion (51b) of the holding plate (51) does not form an outer surface as the holding plate (51) is enclosed within the *interior* space formed between the front case (7) and the center case (8). In other words, the cut-out portion (51e) is *not formed* on an *outer* surface of an interfacing support (defined by the front case (7)) to be mounted on a thermal combustion engine.

Further, the front case (7) in Soh is provided with a slot-shaped cut-out portion (7d), which is formed on an outer surface and only serves to aid in the creation of a drainage hole (55) (*see* col. 7, lines 3-12). The cut-out portion (7d) *does not* aid in angular immobilization of the front case (7) relative to the center case (8) or the yoke (9). To angularly immobilize the front case (7) of Soh with the center case (8), it is necessary to utilize supplemental fixing means such as bolts whereas in the present invention, the interfacing support (11, Fig. 1 of current specification) may be angularly immobilized relative to the cylindrical head (10, Fig. 1 of current specification) *before* utilizing supplemental fixing means.

Thus, the front case (7) disclosed in Soh is completely different from the interfacing support (11, Fig. 1 of current specification) as recited in claim 7 of the present invention. Therefore, Soh fails to show or suggest at least the above limitations of the present invention as required by new independent claim 7.

New independent claim 16 recites *inter alia*, "an electrical engine comprising a cylindrical head, said cylindrical head comprising an axial projection extending from a frontal end of the

cylindrical head.” Applicant respectfully asserts that Soh fails to show or suggest at least the aforementioned limitation as required by new independent claim 16.

The center case (8) in Soh comprises a cylindrical wall and a transversal wall perpendicular to the cylindrical wall. The projection (8c) is formed on the *transversal wall* (see Fig. 2 of Soh). In other words, the projection (8c) does not extend from a frontal end of the cylindrical wall of the center case (8). Thus, Soh does not show or suggest a cylindrical head comprising an axial projection extending from a frontal end of the cylindrical head, as required by new independent claim 16.

In view of the above, Soh does not show or suggest at least the above limitations of the present invention as required by independent claims 7 and 16. Independent claims 7 and 16 are therefore not anticipated by Soh. All of the remaining dependent claims are also not anticipated for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17170/018001).

Dated: April 14, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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